



JPW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Ryoji WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 3725

Application No.: 10/647,235

Examiner: Jason Y. Pahng

Filed: August 26, 2003

Docket No.: 116939

For: SHREDDER APPARATUS AND SHREDDING METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

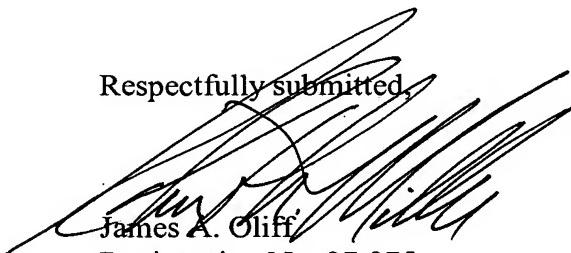
In reply to the February 9, 2005 Restriction and Election of Species Requirements, Applicants provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-11, Species IB and Subspecies 1, with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are readable on the elected species and that, at least, claims 1, 3, 6, 10 and 11 are generic to all species.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-12 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. For example, claim 12 recites features that are very similar to those of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present

application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 2, 2005

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